A regular meeting of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy convened at 1:10 p.m. in Room 232 of the English Building with Chair Abbas Aminmansour presiding.

I. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of February 18, 2008 were approved as distributed.

II. Remarks of the Chair, Reports and Announcements

Chair Aminmansour welcomed new student member Amelia Wallrich to the committee and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

III. Reports from the Provost’s Office and Graduate College

On behalf of the Provost’s office, Kuntz reported on one recent request for administrative approval for the following change:

The College of Engineering has requested that the total number of free electives be increased from 11 to 12 and the total number of technical electives be decreased from 36 to 35 in the undergraduate electrical engineering curriculum. This returns the curriculum to the 2006-07 revisions and negates an intermediate change to accommodate the changes to the Math 220/221 courses.

Committee members did not have any questions or comments about these administrative approvals.

Kuntz also reported that the General Education Board had met that morning whereby members discussed the Cultural Studies requirement and whether it is indeed meeting its objective. The Board is in the process of drafting policy to forward to the EPC for its review.

Aminmansour reported that an Ad Hoc Committee of Academic Associate Deans is discussing new language to the Code to clarify language and to affirm existing policies; this “clarification” will eventually come to this committee for review. Bode noted that he was aware of the discussions to increase the transfer student population and thought the language requirement could prevent students from attending UIUC.

IV. Old Business

Subcommittees

Subcommittee B

EP.08.27, Revision of the Undergraduate Major in Sciences and Letters Curriculum in Speech Communication, College of LAS  Geil noted that there had been some concerns as to the reference of media arts which has since been changed to mediated communications. In response to inquiries by Malmgren, it was noted that the sponsor is aware that the specializations will not be reflected on a student’s transcript.

The proposal was unanimously approved as revised to forward to the Senate.

EP.08.29, Reorganize the African American Studies and Research Program to the Department of African American Studies, College of LAS  The Chair reported that he has not received any concerns regarding this proposal since the Public Hearing was held on February 26. He noted that the Dean of LAS had commented at that time that there are no budgetary implications due to these reorganizations except for printing
letterheads, business cards, etc. Geil reported that he and his subcommittee saw no problems and recommended approval.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate as revised.

EP.08.30, Reorganize the Program for the Study of Religion to the Department of Religion, College of LAS
Geil reported that some minor revisions had been made to this proposal and he recommended approval.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

Subcommittee C

EP.08.28, Establish an Undergraduate Minor in Communication, College of LAS
Projansky noted that the proposal has a minor typographical error; she recommended approval pending receipt of a correction.

The proposal was unanimously approved to forward to the Senate.

V. New Business

Subcommittee A

EP.08.52, Proposal from the Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations to rename the Institute as the School of Labor and Employment Relations
The Chair reported that he had consulted with professors Bill Maher (Chair of University Statutes & Senate Procedures Committee) and H. George Friedman who have confirmed that as this proposal includes a name change as well as a change of status, a Public Hearing is required. He has asked the Dean to make those arrangements and has assured him that our committee will do everything possible to assist in the process. Bode reported that the Statutes define a school as being composed of several academic units. He thought it important for EPC to review exactly what that might entail. Mester noted that although she is in favor of this proposal, she thought it should include more information on academic offerings. Watkin recommended that proposal include a notation that the Institute had been previously established by the IBHE. Geil said he had concerns generally as he found it to be more like an extension program rather than a degree program and questioned whether or not it is appropriate for a university. Kuntz reported that in the past year she has been involved in the course review process for ILIR; some of the courses are presently very skill oriented and are being redeveloped for an undergraduate degree program. Chair Aminmansour took that opportunity to recognize John Marden for his contribution to course review as well as the subcommittee chairs.

Subcommittee C

EP.08.53, Revise the concentrations of Agricultural Finance; Agricultural Accounting; Consumer Economics and Finance; and Farm Management within the Agricultural and Consumer Economics major, College of ACES
Projansky reported that questions were raised as to concentrations in the catalog. Also, the proposals state that “the course revisions were also approved by the UIUC Senate in Fall 2007;” as the Senate does not approve courses, she thought this sentence should be eliminated as well as reference to “precursor courses.”

The proposal was unanimously approved as revised.

VI. Pending Items

Subcommittee A

EP.08.26, Proposal from the College of Business’ Academy for Entrepreneurial Leadership to Establish an Undergraduate Minor in Entrepreneurship
Bode reported that the subcommittee has not yet received the requested revisions.

VII. Adjournment

The Chair asked that any revisions to proposals approved to forward to the Senate on March 31 should be sent to the Secretary by Monday, March 17. The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.